

# RISING STARS

## Expectations for the Next Century

**T**HIS year, the 1st of Baishakh will herald the coming of a new century of the Bangla calendar. Our generation is lucky to live through this milestone in time. This is a time to look back to our rich national heritage and to resolve for working together for a better future for the nation. Poet Rabindranath Tagore, in his celebrated poem, 'The year Fourteen Hundred,' sent his heart-felt greetings to the generation that would live through the year fourteen hundred. We are that lucky generation! On this occasion, let us pay our homage to this great poet, whose literary works are in the best tradition of our national heritage.

Changes in social and cultural lives are inevitable. That is how a nation matures. The nations are getting closer and there are more exchange of ideas between the countries. But not all changes are welcome. While accepting the good things of other societies, we must also uphold our national heritage and culture. We should remind ourselves of those eternal values which would fortify us as we seek clarity and coherence in a confusing world. As long as we remember those powerful principles at our hearts, we are prepared to claim a future as brilliant and rich as our past.

I wish everyone at the Rising Stars a very happy new year.

**Adeeb Z Mahmud**  
A single failure, a little slip, a misdemeanor, and other trivial unwanted occurrences sometimes lead to a nasty breakup of a good relationship. I hope these little things will be heart-breaking to none of us and people will be a little more considerate.

**Joy Alamgir**  
No war, no racism, no bat-

tle, no fear, no communal disturbance — in the coming new year. I would like to have a peaceful and fearless world. May the gentle breeze of 'Baishakh,' the first chirping bird & the very first sunshine — all bring peace over the world, spread love towards people and sing the song of humanity.

**Tasin Ahmed**  
What would you want in the new coming Bengali century? Become a millionaire or at least get some money enough to buy a cool date with your girlfriend on the New Year's day? But I'd want something else? I wish this coming century would bring peace and prosperity to our country, great minds like Rabindra-Nazrul. So long ..... 'Shuvo Naba Barsha'

**Partha Pratim Sheel**  
It is the beginning of a new century and the Bengali calendar. But there seems to be no excitement within the people. If it were the beginning of a new English century, there would be much more excitement and fun. The Bengali people should be more ambitious and enthusiastic. Some people will celebrate lacking proper enthusiasm. Most people will be thinking about themselves let alone enjoying or participating in the fun. I think there should be more excitement in the beginning of a new Bengali century.

**Nowara Munir**  
Bengali calendar was introduced by the great Mughol emperor Akbar. First the names of the month were in Arabic and not in Bengali. Later came the Bengali names. Fourteen hundred is now here; and goodbye to thirteen!  
We had two World Wars, and many other wars in this century, which we don't want in the fourteenth century. Every year flood and cyclone

can be a disaster in the next century. Most countries of the world are independent now, except some. But they are trying to gain their independence. Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina and some other countries are those, and we expect that they will gain

which we are seeing for many years, and we wish that in the coming century man will travel in the stars and will see the alien. We also wish modern technology to improve more in the next century. We hope computer will move to its fifth generation.

wishes of the coming century to all my friends and relatives. Standing at the door of a new century I personally want to work harder. I hope to come across new friends and experiences. I expect an excellent result of my school in the SSC exams. I pray for the progress

independence of our country. But, the question arises whether we achieved true independence. Economically we are governed by the world bank. Terrorism, communalism indicate our political instability. The present picture of Bangladesh proves that we have yet to achieve our goal. I hope we can achieve that in the coming century.

**Raihan Ali Bashir**  
As the new century in the Bengali calendar is about to set in I hope it would be much better than the past one. I hope there would be no wars and the people of the world could enjoy peace everywhere. Hopefully the world would be cleaner and everyone should be proud of their sound health. There should be no poverty and people should learn to share and love each other. Specially I wish that all Bangladeshis should not have to face any traffic-jams. They should all know how to read and write too. Lastly I wish all the children a happy new century.

**Sara Ameen**  
Turning back the pages of time, we can recall all the things that had happened in the past century. Bangladesh is now an independent country, but she was once ruled by the British and then by the Pakistanis. But we Bangladeshis have always been known to the world as a courageous nation. We were never hesitant to fight for our country and undergo the sufferings for that. I therefore hope that in the next century we, as Bangladeshis can help each other and bring peace and prosperity to our country.  
Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

**Bushry Chowdhury**  
The thirteenth century has not yet ended but there is a

few more days left. My expectations are of a good deal. I expect that in Bangladesh the poor people should have the same rights as the rich. They should be given shelter and food. The drug addicts should be taken to rehabilitation centres. The price of food should be less. The nuclear bombs should be destroyed permanently. For UFO's to come and help us rebuild the world. TV programmes should contain enough cartoons and good Bengali and English films!

There must be friendship with all countries. And the most, I accept is, to plant trees and the world to look like a green umbrella.

**Steve Jacob**  
Isn't it great that we the Bangladeshis have two New Year's eves to celebrate? An English one (1st Jan) and a Bengali one (1st Baishakh). And the best part is we have holidays on both days. We even celebrate both the occasions. On the English New Year's eve, people go to parties and stay up till midnight. But on the Bengali New Year's day it's absolutely the opposite; people wake up at four o'clock in the morning to attend cultural programmes. But the most extraordinary thing about this Bengali New Year is that it is the start of a new century. And amazingly, seven years later it'll be a new century for the English calendar as well. Then I'll be able to tell my grandchildren that I lived through two centuries. That is, if I live long enough to see my grandchildren. Imagine, in just one day it's the next century. And I hope it'll be full of Joy and happiness for me and anyone or everyone who's reading this article.

**Naira Khan**  
Happy New Year and Happy New Century.



GROUP PHOTO DRAWN BY SHARIER AFTER BRIBING THE GROUP FOR A PEACEFUL GESTURE / APRIL '93

coming one. Scientists are giving us many specific information on various problems. For example as the ozone layer problem, sea level rise incident, air, water, and sound pollution etc, which can be a danger to our life in the next century, so we should try to prevent these problems, which

there independence in the coming century.  
Technology developed the most in this century. We are now much advanced than the previous century. The most successful story is — man had traveled outer space. To see an alien, is one of the dream

of my country and nation. May my dreams come true and new sunshine bring glory to all.  
**Syed Touhid Mahmood**  
We are about to set our foot steps in a new century with dreams of a bright future. Two decades ago three million people sacrificed lives for the

Happy new year and good

## STAR PROFILE

Name: Divya Bharati.  
Age: 19 years.  
Died: April 6, 1993.

**Marital Status: Married?**  
Did You Know That—  
Last week she received a popular award for being the "Outstanding Female Face of the Year." She climbed on the window sill of her apartment in an intoxicated condition, slipped and fell to her death.

Nicknamed "Baby Doll" she was one of the saucy and outspoken new generation actresses.



## Eid and Hope

Tasin Ahmed

**T**HIS year I don't think we the Muslims observed a happy Eid. As our brothers are not safe and our community faces dangerous threat of existence.

Thomas Paine in his book called 'The Age of Reason said that' the world is my country, all mankind are my brethren and to do good is my religion. He is absolutely right. To do good to others is what every religion talks about. But today, in this modern civilized world, we are watching communal differences with great pain. People of one religion is fighting others throughout the whole world, and Muslims have been the target this time.

Keeping maximum respect to all the other religious community, I have to say that they are really putting our community in a chaos. If we look at Bosnia-Herzegovina or even at our neighbouring country India, we can see that the Muslim community has really been severely tortured for no reasons. If this doesn't stop right now, what Karl Marx said, "Religion is the opium of the people" will in no time

turn to be a false quotation. Eid brings happiness, love, respect and unity among the people. In this holiday of our community, we all pray for opening a new era of friendship and love among all the people in the world. As Hindus in their Puja-Parban, Christians in their Christmas and other communities in their holy festival pray for a better and brighter united world. We the Muslims also do so. We have a strong believe in us that "one religion is as true as another" and I hope some of the misguided people of other community, who are creating communal imbalance by torturing the Muslim from Bosnia to India, will get back their lost humanity and make this world a safe place for everyone.

Even though Eid this year has not brought real happiness in the heart of the Muslims, but still I would like to greet all the people of the world, people of every single religion a late happy "Eid-ul-Fitr" and an early happy "Eid-ul-Azha".  
May Allah bless all the people of this beautiful world.

## GREY MATTER

by A Q Anonymous

In aid of all those who gave a lousy O'Level exam this Jan.

The stuff in between the ears I'd like to exchange with the guy. Who gets eight straight A's Without the blink of an eye.

Today the sky is blue, The katabon stuff is brown, And that is why I can feel A stoning coming on.

Listen to 'Jim Morrison' Listen to 'Wish you were here,' But go you'll have to there Where your parents await with a snare.

An end comes to the beating, An end to your generation renaming, But the frustration that you have junked, Cannot be easily bunked.

You have, nothing more to say, Wish for, nothing more to play, Six feet of ground you want to go under, Where no one can tell you about your blunder.

AIN'T THAT THE TRUTH:

- \* The realisation: and urge to study for an examination always comes too late.
- \* Two days before result, a person betrays to doubt the 'A' grade answers he wrote in the exam hall.
- \* Two similar cases when your soul leaves your body are: One, when you're in a fatal accident. Two, when you're just receiving an uncertain result sheet.

## QUIZ CLUB

- Q1. What is the speed at which the sun travels around the galactic centre?
- Q2. What was the nationality of Christopher Columbus?
- Q3. In which year was Abraham Lincoln assassinated?
- Q4. Which author used to write under the name 'Hisown'?
- Q5. What is the arctic region of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia called?
- Q6. Who discovered the solar system?
- Q7. Name the highest mountain peak in Europe.
- Q8. Only one of Shakespeare's plays have included a dog. Which one was it?
- Q9. Who were the parents of king Sobmon?
- Q10. 'Never advise anyone to go to war or to marry'. To which country does this proverb belong?

Answers for 3-4-93

- Ans 1. Rhode Island, which is affectionately known as "Little Roddy".
- Ans 2. Dr Christian Barnard.
- Ans 3. Abraham Lincoln.
- Ans 4. 18 June, 1815
- Ans 5. It is the main gate between East and West Berlin.
- Ans 6. Lira.
- Ans 7. A Scottish mathematician who devised the logarithm.
- Ans 8. Albert Museum in London.
- Ans 9. Enyo.
- Ans 10. North of Alaska and Canada.

## THE INTELLIGENT FOOLS

by Adeeb Z. Mahmud

**T**HE Inter Galactic Star Ship blasted off from the Starbase 'EPCOT 3' as the first rays of the sun — or rather the star — appeared on the horizon. Captain Knox T2nd was at the command of the ship which had already set its course towards a star system near the rim of the galaxy. Knox had been working for the Star Fleet for over twenty-five years and had just received a long deserved promotion. This time his task was simple and to-the-point. He recalled his meeting with Admiral Moshin last night when the latter had been briefing him about his mission.

## JOKES

by Tareq Md Yusuf

Man: I'd like to buy some alligator shoes!  
Clerk: Sure What size does your alligator wear?

Two cowboys were talking.  
One said: My name is Tex  
Two: You from Texas?  
One: 'Nope, I'm from Louisiana but who wants to be called Louise?'

Officer: 'Not a man in this division will be given liberty this afternoon.'  
Voice: 'Give me liberty or give me death.'  
Officer: (angrily): 'Who said that?'  
Voice: 'Patrick Henry!'

Officer: 'What's this?'  
Cook: 'It's bean soup sir!'  
Officer: Never mind what it's been. What is it now?'

by Mehnaz Khan

Q: What's the best way to catch a squirrel?  
A: Hang upside down from a tree and look like a nut.

Q: Why did John take his rider to bed?  
A: Because he wanted to see how long he would sleep.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?  
A: For a fowl (foul) purpose

words, you'll welcome them to the Federation. I dare say, there won't be much excitement or thrill compared to your last missions, but of course you realise that this is just as important. Well, good luck! With that, he had dismissed Knox. Knox returned to reality as he heard his first officer, Commander Amian, calling him amid the noise of the Control Room.

"Sir," the Commander told him, "we are ready to make contact with the first planet".

After travelling nearly eight light years, the Starship was again nearing one of its several destinations. Knox was in the Control Room as usual when Commander Amian approached and informed him about their next mission.

"We have reached the Sector 7.3 Star System, Sir, it is known as the Solar System. Our data logs ..."

Knox suddenly became quite oblivious of the Commander and the ado around him, as his mind drifted back to the time when the Galactic Federation had been formed. From its beginning Knox had been with the committee that decided which planets and life

forms were 'mature' enough to be admitted to the Federation.

Knox opened the voice activated computer files — they listed the names and specifications of the different races

divided into administrative units called countries and most of its inhabitants don't have access to such powers".

"But that is absurd! A war can break out any time. We must talk to them immediately. Which planet are they using for their tests?"

"It seems that these beings have not been able to make much progress at space travel. Furthermore, they need a gas called Oxygen to live — a gas which is quite rare in these parts of the galaxy."

"But where, then, do they conduct their nuclear tests and experiments?" asked Knox anxiously.

"On their own planet, Sir", came the reluctant reply.

"On their own planet?" Knox jumped up in disbelief. Slowly, shaking his head. He erased the name from the file and opened a new, much smaller one. It listed the few planets which were destined to be destroyed within a short period — either by environmental maladjustments or by their destructive inhabitants. He entered the name, Earth. It was an unprecedented act, but then Knox was wise and experienced and could see the inevitable.

"Silly fools", he muttered to himself as he gave the orders to alter the course of the Star Ship.

